

tactes, L. The same was the case with birds from Scandinavia, the Alps, and the Hungarian mountains. All these birds were resident throughout the year and *did not wander*, while the thin-billed form, *N. macrorhynchus*, C. L. Brehm, which alone inhabited Siberia, frequently wandered in a south-westerly direction, and sometimes occurred all over Germany in great numbers. The differences of the beaks alone were sufficient to separate the two forms, but there were some other differences between them."

The Hon. WALTER ROTHSCHILD sent the following description of a new *Rhamphocælus*, which he proposed to call

†-RHAMPHOCÆLUS INEXPECTATUS, sp. nov.

Chin, sides of neck, head, hind neck, interscapulum, wings, with upper and under coverts, tail, centre of abdomen, and thighs black; rest of plumage bright yellow. This yellow is much darker than that of the rump in *Rh. icteronotus*, Bp., but not orange as in *Rh. chrysopterus*, Bouc. On the occiput are a number of scattered feathers bordered with yellow; this may or may not be the remains of immature plumage. Total length 155 mm., wing 82, tail 70, culmen 16, tarsus 20.

Hab. Panama.

Mr. SCLATER made some remarks on the specimens of bones of *Geayornis newtoni* exhibited to the Zoological Society by Prof. Stirling at their last meeting.

Mr. A. TREVOR-BATTYE made some remarks on the Bernacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*), Brünnich's Guillemot (*Uria bruennichi*), and other species of birds observed by him in Spitsbergen.

XXI.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 137.]

28. 'Aquila' for 1896.

[Aquila. A Magyar Ornithologiai Központ Folyóirata. Redact. Herman Ottó. Jahrg. III. 1896. Budapest, 1896.]

The volume of 'Aquila' for 1896, printed in parallel

columns of Magyar and German, contains a variety of interesting papers, among which we may call attention to those by Prazák on *Acrocephalus palustris horticolus* and *Coturnix baldami* of Brehm, the latter apparently a form of *C. communis*. Good coloured figures are given of *Pastor roseus* and *Coturnix baldami*.

29. Arrigoni degli Oddi on Italian Sport and Ornithology.

[La Caccia di Botte o di Valle nelle Lagune di Venezia. Del Dottor Ettore Arrigoni degli Oddi. 8vo. Milano, 1894.

Le ultime apparizioni dell' *Actochelidon sandvicensis* (Latham) nel Veneziano. Nota ornitologica del Dott. Ettore Arrigoni degli Oddi. Atti Soc. Ital. Sci. Nat. xxxvi. p. 17.]

The first little pamphlet contains an account of the marshes and canals in the neighbourhood of Venice, the wild-fowl which frequent them, and the local terms employed in the sport. We notice it because it has been sent to us, and also because it would be useful to any ornithologist who might wish to devote his attention to that district.

The second contribution gives details of the somewhat plentiful occurrence in the vicinity of Venice in the autumn of 1894 of the Tern which we call *Sterna cantiaca*, and which appears to be otherwise a rare visitor.

30. Sir Joseph Banks's Journal.

[Journal of the Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Banks, Bart., K.B., P.R.S., during Capt. Cook's First Voyage in H.M.S. 'Endeavour' in 1768-71 to Tierra del Fuego, Otaheite, New Zealand, Australia, the Dutch East Indies, &c. Edited by Sir Joseph D. Hooker. London: Macmillan & Co., 1896.]

All naturalists will agree in thanking Sir Joseph Hooker for editing and publishing the most interesting Journal kept by Sir Joseph Banks during Cook's First Voyage round the World. It is remarkable that the original of this precious MS. should have been lost, and that the present volume has been prepared from a transcript now in the British Museum. The Journal is accompanied by biographical sketches and portraits of Banks and his librarian and naturalist Solander, and by excellent footnotes. To the sea-birds obtained and observed frequent allusions will be found throughout the

narrative, and many of the birds are provided with MS. names, which are in most cases, of course, indeterminable. We copy (from p. 208) a short passage on a point as regards the Albatrosses, which seems to be of some interest. It is dated January 6th, 1770, when the 'Endeavour' was on the coast of New Zealand :—

"Calm to-day. Shot *Procellaria longipes*, *P. velox*, and *Diomedea exulans* (the Albatross). I had an opportunity of seeing this last sit upon the water; and, as it is commonly said by seamen that they cannot in a calm rise upon the wing, I tried the experiment. There were two of them. One I shot dead; the other, which was near it, swam off nearly as fast as my small boat could row. We gave chase and gained a little; the bird attempted to fly by trying to take off from a falling wave, but did not succeed: I, who was so far off that I knew I could not hurt him, fired at him to make his attempts more vigorous; this had the desired result, for at the third effort he got upon the wing, though I believe that, had it not been for a little swell upon the water, he could not have done it."

31. Bendire's 'Life-Histories of North-American Birds.'

[Life-Histories of North-American Birds, from the Parrots to the Grackles, with special reference to their Breeding-habits and Eggs, with seven Lithographic Plates. By Charles Bendire, Captain and Brevet-Major, U.S. Army (retired). Vol. II. 4to. Washington: 1895. Smiths. Inst. U.S. Nat. Mus., Special Bulletin.]

We have received with great pleasure a copy of the second portion of Major Bendire's 'Life-Histories of North-American Birds,' the first part of which was issued in 1892 (see 'Ibis,' 1893, p. 126). The nature and scope of this excellent piece of work were explained in our notice of the first portion. In the present part are described in a similar way the breeding-habits, nests, eggs, and distribution of the *Psittaci*, *Picariæ*, *Macrochires*, and *Passeres*, down to the end of the *Icteridæ*, according to the order and arrangement of the Code and Check-list of the American Ornithologists' Union. The illustrations consist of seven correctly coloured plates of the eggs of these groups. As in the former case, the

volume is beautifully printed and got up, and does credit alike to the Smithsonian Institution and the author. We observe with satisfaction that, although Major Bendire follows the Check-list, he does not scruple to express his own opinion as to the claims of some of the species and subspecies to the rank accorded to them in that work.*

32. *Brandes on the Bird's Gizzard.*

[Ueber den vermeintlichen Einfluss veränderter Ernährung auf die Struktur des Vogelmagens. Von Dr. G. Brandes. Biol. Centralbl. xvi. pp. 825-838, cuts.]

The well-known experiment of John Hunter—so often quoted—on the supposed increase of thickness in the Gull's gizzard produced by feeding the bird upon corn, and the analogous experiments of Holmgren upon the converse change in the Pigeon's gizzard when fed upon flesh, are subjected in this paper to a double criticism. In the first place Dr. Brandes made actual experiments upon a Gull and a Dove, and came to a negative conclusion: that is to say, he discovered no alteration. In the second place he suggested, from a careful reading of the facts stated by the two authorities for this supposed change, that pathological conditions had been ignored. The gizzard of the Pigeon fed and dissected by Holmgren was perforated by a splinter of glass, a possibly sufficient cause for the alteration in the muscular coat of the organ. Furthermore, Dr. Brandes compared (and has figured in the paper) three gizzards of *Larus argentatus*, which show considerable differences in the thickness of their muscular walls; the thickest-walled gizzard of the three is fully twice as thick as the thinnest. Until, therefore, we are acquainted with the range of variation in this organ it is idle to take isolated examples and assert that the thickness has been increased by an abnormal food.

33. *Bull's Cruise of the 'Antarctic.'*

[The Cruise of the 'Antarctic' to the South Polar Regions. By H. J. Bull. London: 1896.]

Mr. Bull went to the South Polar Regions as a pioneer

* [Since this notice was in type we have learned, with great regret, the death of the author. See "Obituary," p. 294.—EDD.]

for Commander Foy in order to ascertain whether "right whales" are to be found in the Antarctic Seas, and though unsuccessful on the main point, he seems to have done much useful work, in spite of various misfortunes. Going out in the s.s. 'Antarctic,' specially equipped for the purpose, he visited Tristan da Cunha and Kerguelen Land before reaching Melbourne, and did some "sealing." Leaving Australia in September, 1894, for the South Polar Seas, Mr. Bull passed from the Campbell Islands to the Balleny group, and after a tremendous struggle with the icebergs and floes, he and his party, on January 24th, 1895, effected a landing on the Antarctic continent under Cape Adare, Victoria Land—being the first of mankind who have ever accomplished this feat. "Myriads of *Pinguis* fairly covered the flat promontory, many acres in extent, jutting out into the bay, between Cape Adare and a more westerly headland; they further lined all accessible projections of the rocks to an altitude of 800 or 900 feet. The youngsters were now almost full-grown. In their thick, woolly, and grey down they exhibited a most remarkable and comical appearance. At a distance the confused din and screaming emanating from parents and children resembled the uproar of an excited human assembly, thousands in number."

Many other passages relating to the birds of the Antarctic Seas will be found in Mr. Bull's narrative (see pp. 62, 135, 156), which is well worthy of perusal; but the want of a handy map is a great defect in the volume.

34. *Butler's 'British Birds.'*

[*British Birds, with their Nests and Eggs. In Six Volumes. Order Passeres (First Part). By Arthur G. Butler, Ph.D., F.L.S., F.Z.S. Illustrated by F. W. Frohawk, M.B.O.U., F.E.S. Vol. I. Folio. Brumby & Clarke: Hull & London. 1896.*]

This is an excellent piece of work, and Dr. Butler's practical acquaintance with the habits of Passerine birds in confinement is a characteristic feature of the present volume. Mr. Frohawk may be congratulated on his success in depicting in black and white the distinguishing characters of

many of the closely-allied Warblers—a very difficult task to accomplish. We fail to see why the claims of the Aquatic Warbler to rank as a “British” bird should be considered superior to those of the Great Reed-Warbler, the Icterine Warbler, and other birds which occurred in Britain years before the Aquatic Warbler was recognized. The families treated in this volume are the Turdidæ, Cinclidæ, Panuridæ, Paridæ, Sittidæ, Troglodytidæ, Certhiidæ, and Motacillidæ.

35. Büttikofer on a new Duck.

[On a new Duck from the Island of Sumba. By Dr. J. Büttikofer. Notes Leyden Mus. xviii. p. 59.]

An imperfect skin from the East-Indian island of Sumba, and now in the Leyden Museum, is referred by Dr. Büttikofer to a new species of rather uncertain position, which he names for the present *Anas salvadorii*. It is allied to *Nettion castaneum* and *Elasmonetta chlorotis* of Count Salvadori's ‘Catalogue.’

36. Büttikofer on two Generic Names of Birds.

[Rectification of two Generic Names. By Dr. J. Büttikofer. Notes Leyden Mus. xviii. p. 58.]

Dr. Büttikofer changes his names *Centrolophus* and *Gymnocrotaphus*, lately proposed for two genera of Pycnonotine forms, to *Bostrycholophus* and *Bonapartia* respectively.

37. Čapek on the Reproduction of the Cuckoo.

[Beiträge zur Fortpflanzungsgeschichte des Kuckucks. Von W. Čapek. Ornith. Jahrb. vii. 1896.]

Although the literature on the Cuckoo and its reproductive vagaries is already so large, Herr Čapek has done well, we think, in giving us the benefit of his personal experiences on this subject and of his deductions therefrom. They have been made at Oslawan, near Brunn, in a secluded district of Moravia, where Cuckoos are apparently very abundant, and have been continued for many years. The catalogue of

Cuckoos' eggs, with which the author commences his treatise, contains a list of 225 specimens taken at Oslawan, with ample particulars about each of them, such as the date, foster-parent, size, weight, and type of colouring. In Moravia, it seems, the nest of the Robin is that mostly selected by the Cuckoo for the deposit of its eggs. Out of 273 instances in which Cuckoos' eggs or young were found, 92 belonged to *Erithacus rubecula*, but the Redstart (*Ruticilla phæniceus*), with 88 cases, nearly rivals it. After these the three species most selected by the Cuckoo are *Lanius collurio* (40 cases), *Motacilla alba* (11 cases), and *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* (17 cases). In various tables which follow are full details concerning the Cuckoos of Oslawan—their numbers, the proportion of males to females, the times of their arrival and departure, the length of the egg-laying period (usually from 40 to 60 days), the size, form, colour, and texture of the eggs; and are accompanied by ample explanations of all these and many other points. We can safely commend this excellent essay to the attention of those interested in the engrossing subject of the Cuckoo.

38. Clarke (*W. E.*) on the Migration of Birds.

[Bird Migration in Great Britain and Ireland.—Report of the Committee, consisting of Professor Newton (Chairman), Mr. John Cordeaux (Secretary), Mr. John A. Harvie-Brown, Mr. R. M. Barrington, Mr. W. Eagle Clarke, and Rev. E. P. Knubley, appointed for the purpose of making a Digest of the Observations on the Migrations of Birds at Light-houses and Light-vessels, 1880-1887. 8vo. British Association, 1896.]

Although necessarily set forth as the Report of the above Committee, the preparation of this admirable digest is the work of Mr. W. Eagle Clarke, who has devoted several years of arduous labour to putting into shape the material for this little pamphlet of only 27 pages! As it stands it is a marvel of condensed facts, and some of these facts sweep away old superstitions like cobwebs. It used to be supposed that the east-to-west migration which affected Heligoland in autumn would be in some degree continued to the British Islands, and that a reflex movement would take place in spring; but

uncompromising data show that such intermigrations are the rare exception and not the rule. Another fond fancy was that the migrations of many species of birds depended upon the direction of the wind; but this is true only to a very limited extent, and it is the temperature at the point of departure which plays the most important part in the seasonal movements. Practically the wind is not a factor, for although all birds cannot fly in the teeth of an absolute gale, they can sail uncommonly close to any reasonable wind, and they do so. We must not, however, pick any more valuable items out of this admirable treatise, and if any one of our readers has not yet provided himself with it, we should advise him to lose no time in obtaining this indispensable work.

39. *Dresser's Supplement to the 'Birds of Europe.'*

[A History of the Birds of Europe, including all the Species inhabiting the Western Palearctic Region. Supplement. By H. E. Dresser, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c. Part IX. November, 1896.]

With the ninth part of his Supplement to the 'Birds of Europe,' Mr. Dresser brings this important addition to our knowledge of the Western Palearctic avifauna to a successful conclusion. A useful "List of Species which have been recorded as having occurred in Europe," but which (for divers good reasons) have not been recognized by Mr. Dresser, follows the systematic portion, and a supplementary list of the publications referring to European ornithology issued since the completion of the 'Birds of Europe' in 1881 is given in the Introduction. We heartily congratulate our friend and fellow-worker on thus concluding a long and arduous undertaking, to which he has devoted many years of patient labour.

The following species are figured in Part IX. :—

Francolinus bicalcaratus.	Oceanodroma cryptoleucura.
Grus antigone.	Puffinus obscurus.
Lobivanellus indicus.	Estrelata mollis.
Tringa acuminata.	Colymbus adamsi.
Larus philadelphia.	

40. *Gurney on a New-Zealand Owl.*

[The New Zealand Owl (*Sceloglaux albifacies*, Gray) in Captivity. By J. H. Gurney, F.L.S. Trans. Norf. & Norw. Nat. Soc. vi. p. 154.]

Mr. Gurney gives us some useful notes on *Sceloglaux albifacies*, the White-faced Owl of New Zealand, now a rare bird. These are based on a living specimen which was procured near Timaru, in the Southern Island, in 1895, but unfortunately did not survive long in captivity. An outline of the bird from life, and a figure of its tongue, are added. Besides the examples mentioned by Mr. Gurney, a living individual of this Owl was obtained by the Zoological Society in September, 1875 (see P. Z. S. 1875, p. 530).

41. *Hood and Coues on Ornithology.*

[Papers presented to the World's Congress on Ornithology. Edited by Mrs. E. Irene Hood, under the direction of Dr. Elliott Coues. 8vo. Chicago: 1896.]

This is a collection of nicely-written essays on various subjects relating to birds, either read or taken as read at the "World's Congress on Ornithology," in connection with the Centennial Exhibition at Chicago, in October 1893. The Presidential Address was written by Dr. Coues, who was himself unfortunately unable to be present. Mr. Allen's "Migration of Birds" gives a good popular account of modern views of this subject. Mr. Quelch's address on the Birds of British Guiana will be read with interest. Dr. Leverkühn contributes an account of his gallery of the portraits of ornithologists. We are glad to see so many references made to the question of the protection of bird-life, which is assuming greater importance every year. Mr. Pearson writes as follows of his visit, after three years' absence, to a well-known haunt of Herons in Central Florida, where he had found several hundred pairs nesting in 1888:—"The scene had changed. Not a Heron was visible. I discharged my revolver, but the answering echoes and the tapping of a Woodpecker were the only response. The call had come from northern cities for greater quantities of Heron-plumes for millinery. The plume-hunter had

discovered the colony, and a few shattered nests were all that was left to tell of the once populous colony. The few surviving tenants, if there were any, had fled in terror to the recesses of wilder swamps. Wearily I descended from the tree to find among the leaves and mould the crumbling bones of slaughtered birds."

42. *Judd and Beal on the Food of American Birds.*

[Four Common Birds of the Farm and Garden. By Sylvester D. Judd.

The Meadow-Lark and Baltimore Oriole. By F. E. L. Beal. Repr. from Year-book U.S. Dept. Agr. 1895, p. 405.]

Messrs. Judd and Beal, Assistant Ornithologists in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, have studied the food of six common birds of the farms and gardens of the United States, and now give us the results of their enquiries. These are in every case in favour of the usefulness of the birds, though more so in some cases than in others. "The Catbird (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*) and the Thrasher (*Harporhynchus rufus*) subsist largely on a vegetable diet, consisting mainly of fruits, though the Thrasher, especially in spring, has a decided taste for grain and acorns."

43. *Koenig on the Birds of Algeria.*

[Reisen und Forschungen in Algerien. Von Prof. Dr. A. Koenig. Mit 24 nach photographischen Aufnahmen gefertigten Schwartzdruckbildern, 14 mit der Hand colorirten Tafeln, 2 Farbendrucktafeln und 1 Karte, 1896.]

In this volume Dr. Koenig gives us an interesting account of his expedition to the Algerian Sahara in 1892-93, in the course of which he penetrated into the interior as far as the Oases of Gardaia and Waregla, visited by Canon Tristram some forty years ago, but still insufficiently explored. In this part of the book an entertaining narrative is given of the adventures of the author and Madame Koenig, and numerous allusions to the birds observed and obtained as they went along are introduced. Twenty-four plates, taken from photographs, illustrate some of the principal scenes and incidents of the journey.

The second part of Dr. Koenig's book is a reprint of the "Beiträge zur Ornis Algeriens," published in the 'Journal für Ornithologie' for 1895. It contains a systematic account of the 160 species of birds met with in Algeria, with numerous and excellent field-notes on them. References are given to the works of former observers in the same district—Malherbe, Loche, Tristram, Salvin, Gurney, Dixon, &c.—and 14 coloured plates (drawn by Keulemans) contain portraits of some of the more remarkable species. Great attention seems to have been paid to the Larks and Chats, and among the latter three examples of the rare *Saxicola seebohmi* were obtained. Both sexes of this species are figured.

44. Lee's Photographs of British Birds.

[Among British Birds in their Nesting-Haunts, illustrated by the Camera. By Oswin A. J. Lee. Pts. I.-II. 4to. Douglas, Edinburgh.]

These two Parts are the earlier instalments of a magnificent work which is expected to run to about twenty numbers. It would be difficult to speak too highly of the plates produced, while the vignettes are in no way inferior, and the letterpress is just enough and no more. The book must be read before an adequate idea can be formed of the hardship and daring required to attain a position suitable for photographing the nests of some of the species *in situ*. Certainly we have never before seen any photographs so good under such circumstances, and the work may be thoroughly recommended to all lovers of birds'-nesting. The species—or their nests—represented are as follows:—Part I. *Somateria mollissima* (2), *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Falco peregrinus* (2), *Asio otus*, *Accipiter nisus*, *Larus fuscus* (2), *Sterna dougalli*. Part II. *Fulica atra* (2), *Spatula clypeata*, *Rissa tridactyla*, *Gallinula chloropus* (2), *Phylloscopus trochilus*, *Sterna cantiaca*, *Tadorna cornuta* (2).

45. Lönnerberg on some Linnean Types at Upsala.

[Linnean Type-specimens of Birds, Reptiles, Batrachians, and Fishes in the Zoological Museum of the R. University in Upsala. Revised by

Dr. Einar Lönnberg. Bihang k. Svensk. Vet.-Ak. Handl. xxii. Afd. iv. No. 1.]

The Zoological Museum of the University of Upsala still contains a certain number of specimens of vertebrated animals which were there in the days of Linnæus. Some of these are the actual specimens from which Linnæus took his descriptions, and therefore true types of the species based upon them. Others have been known to Linnæus and were under his care, "so that the determinations of these specimens, when they agree with the descriptions in the 'Systema Naturæ,' have a certain authority."

Dr. Lönnberg discusses all these specimens, which belong mostly to the Classes of Reptiles, Batrachians, and Fishes. But there are some Birds among them (see pp. 29, 33), so that the ornithologist should not neglect to consult Dr. Lönnberg's memoir.

46. Lorenz on the Nestor Parrots.

[Ueber die Nestor-Papageien. Von Dr. L. v. Lorenz. Verh. k.-k. zool.-bot. Gesell. Wien, 1896.]

At a meeting of the Zoological and Botanical Society of Vienna last year, Dr. L. v. Lorenz exhibited the original specimen (formerly in the Museum Leverianum) upon which Latham based his "Southern Brown Parrot" in 1781, and *Psittacus nestor* in 1790, but to which also Gmelin attributed the name *Ps. meridionalis* in 1788, and Shaw that of *Psittacus australis* in 1792. This specimen agrees perfectly with examples lately obtained by Herr Reischek in the Southern Island of New Zealand. Dr. Lorenz is therefore of opinion that the southern form of *Nestor* should be called *Nestor meridionalis* instead of *N. montanus*, and proposes to name the corresponding form of the Northern Island *N. septentrionalis*.

47. Lucas on the Cranium of Pallas's Cormorant.

[Contributions to the Natural History of the Commander Islands.—XI. The Cranium of Pallas's Cormorant. By Frederic A. Lucas. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 717, 1896.]

Mr. Lucas describes and figures the cranium of the extinct

Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax perspicillatus*, from a specimen obtained by Dr. Stejneger in 1895 from a bone-deposit on Bering Island. It most nearly resembles the skull of *P. penicillatus* among living Cormorants, but is larger and wider, while the beak is shorter.

48. Merriam (Florence A.) on Californian Birds.

[A-Birding on a Bronco. By Florence A. Merriam. 12mo. Boston and New York, 1896.]

In this charming little book the talented sister of Dr. C. Hart Merriam gives an account of her experiences in Southern California. Mounted on a white "bronco," whose spirit (and almost his jaw) had been broken by a Mexican bit, Miss Merriam rambled and serambled among the Coast Mountains, not far from San Diego, and only twelve miles from the Pacific, acquiring a capital insight respecting the private life of the birds of the district. The style of work is popular, and there are numerous photogravure illustrations.

49. Newton and Gadow's 'Dictionary of Birds,' Part IV.

[A Dictionary of Birds. By Alfred Newton, assisted by Hans Gadow. With Contributions from Richard Lydekker, Charles E. Roy, and Robert W. Shufeldt. Part IV. London: A. & C. Black, 1896.]

A copy of the fourth and concluding part of the 'Dictionary of Birds' came to us on January 1st and formed a welcome New Year's gift, for which we are duly grateful. We are sure that all ornithologists will hail the completion of this work with pleasure. The general plan and scope of the Dictionary are so well known from the three former parts that we need not now recur to them. We may remark that Skull, Solitaire, and Syrinx are three articles that have specially interested us in the present part.

As regards the Tinamous, it is not quite accurate to say that they are "especially characteristic of the Patagonian or Chilian portion of the Neotropical Region." Only two species are found in Chili, and only eight in Argentina, most of which occur in the northern provinces, while nearly all the species of *Tinamus*, *Nothocercus*, and *Crypturus* (of which

Count Salvadori enumerates 44) are from tropical America. But it is the Introduction of 120 pages that differentiates the final part of the Dictionary from its predecessors, and in this will be found a mass of information on every branch of Ornithology, put together in a way which evidences a practised and skilful writer on a favourite subject.

The objections to the alphabetical arrangement involved in a Dictionary, we may say in conclusion, are much obviated by the full and clearly-printed Index that concludes the volume.

50. *North on the Nest of Petræca leggi.*

[Note on a Nest of *Petræca leggi*, Sharpe, the Scarlet-breasted Robin. By Alfred J. North, F.L.S. Records Austral. Mus. ii. No. 6.]

The author describes and figures the nest and three eggs of the Scarlet-breasted Robin (*Petræca leggi*) of Australia, from a specimen taken at Bayswater, Victoria, in November 1894. It is cup-shaped, very neatly made, and was placed in a hollow stem of a mountain musk (*Olearia argophylla*), about six feet from the ground. The nest will form part of the "Group Collection" in the Australian Museum, Sydney, which illustrates the life-history of Australian birds.

51. *North on the Insectivorous Birds of New South Wales.*

[A List of the Insectivorous Birds of New South Wales. By Alfred J. North, C.M.Z.S. Part I. 8vo. Sydney, 1896.]

Mr. North proposes to catalogue the insect-eating birds of New South Wales in order to show what species are beneficial to agriculture and should receive protection. He divides such birds into three groups: (1) those exclusively insectivorous; (2) those partially insectivorous; (3) those also partly frugivorous, and therefore more or less harmless. The present portion of the catalogue treats of 63 species of the first class. It is illustrated by 10 plates, mostly coloured, rather rough in character, but sufficiently accurate for practical purposes.

52. *Poynting's 'Eggs of British Birds.'*

[Eggs of British Birds.—Limicolæ (Plovers, Snipes, Sandpipers, &c.). By Frank Poynting. Part IV. 4to. London: R. H. Porter, 1896.]

In offering our congratulations to the author on the completion of the final part of his excellent work, we can only repeat our opinion (*Ibis*, 1896, p. 278) that this is the best series of illustrations of eggs since the days of Hewitson, and in some respects it even surpasses the utmost efforts of that pioneer in oology. And certainly such a series of the eggs of the Little Stint, Bar-tailed Godwit, and some others have never been—and never could have been—portrayed before.

The following species are noticed in this Part, but the eggs of the Knot, Curlew-Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and Solitary Sandpiper are not represented—for the best of reasons:—*Ædicnemus scolopax*, *Glareola pratincola*, *Charadrius asiaticus*, *Squatarola helvetica*, *Vanellus gregarius*, *Gallinago major*, *Tringa minuta*, *T. temmincki*, *Totanus hypoleucus*, *T. glareola*, *T. flavipes*, *T. canescens*, *Limosa lapponica*, *Tringa acuminata*, *T. subarquata*, *T. canutus*, and *Totanus solitarius*.

53. *Reiser and Führer's 'Ornis Balcanica.'*

[Materialien zu einer Ornis Balcanica herausgegeben vom Bosnisch-Hercegovinischen Landesmuseum in Sarajevo.—IV. Montenegro. Von Othmar Reiser und Ludwig v. Führer. Wien, 1896.]

We have now before us, thanks to the courtesy of Herr Reiser, a copy of the fourth part of the 'Ornis Balcanica,' which relates to the Birds of Montenegro. We have already noticed the second part of this work, and are informed that Part I., relating to the Ornis of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Part III., relating to that of Greece, are in preparation. When these parts are issued the ornithologist will have no longer to complain of want of good information on the birds of the Balkan Peninsula.

The present volume commences with an account of the various journeys to Montenegro, from 1890 to 1895, which were undertaken with a view of obtaining materials for the present work. From October 1893 to the same month in

1894, a whole year was spent in the Principality by Herr Reiser—his headquarters being at Podgoritza, within easy reach of the great Lake of Scutari. But, as will be seen by the maps attached to the volume, nearly the whole of Montenegro was traversed at one time or another. The list given at the close of the account of the travels shows that examples of 237 species of birds were thus obtained personally by the authors in Montenegro, and that 31 more have been recorded by other observers, making the total number of Montenegrin species, as at present recorded, to be 268.

The "special part" of the work which follows gives details as to the occurrence of the various species, and excellent field-notes on their habits. Some of the species of particular interest to the ornithologists of the West are such forms as *Hypolais pallida*, *Sitta neumayeri*, *Otocorys penicillata*, *Euspiza melanocephala*, *Falco feldeggi*, *Astur brevipes*, and *Pelecanus crispus*, which are never seen in Western Europe. It is curious that the occurrence of *Passer petronius* in Montenegro still rests on the authority of the late Lord Lilford, who observed it in August 1857, when riding up from Rijeka to Cetinje (*cf.* *Ibis*, 1860, p. 137).

Coloured figures of *Falco feldeggi* (♂ ad. et ♀ jr.) and *Astur brevipes* (♂ ♀ et pull.) illustrate this attractive volume—for which the best thanks of all ornithologists are due to the energetic authors.

54. *Richmond on Birds from Central Asia.*

[Catalogue of a Collection of Birds made by Dr. W. L. Abbott, in Eastern Turkestan, the Thian Shan Mountains, and Tagdumbash Pamir, Central Asia, with Notes on some of the Species. By Charles W. Richmond. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 569.]

The collection recently made by Dr. Abbott in Eastern Turkestan, the Thian-Shan Mountains, and the Tagdumbash Pamir, and presented to the U.S. National Museum, contains 210 finely prepared specimens, which represent 98 species. In his account of them Mr. Richmond, as in the Catalogue of Dr. Abbott's Cashmir birds (*cf.* *Ibis*, *suprà*, p. 129),

follows the order of Dr. Bowdler Sharpe's Report on the birds of the Second Yarkand Mission.

Mr. Richmond distinguishes a pale form of the Tree-Sparrow from Yarkand as *Passer montanus dilutus*, a new form of Blackbird as *Merula merula intermedia* (!), between (what we should call) *Turdus merula* and *T. maximus*, from Turkestan, and a new Plover (*Ægialitis pamirensis*, distinguishable from *Æ. mongola* by its black front) from the Tagdumbash Pamir. Other interesting species of which specimens were obtained were—*Carpodacus rhodochlamys* from the Thian-Shan, *Pyrrhospiza longirostris* from the Pamir, *Phasianus shawi* from Kashgar, and *Ibidorhynchus struthersi* from Turkestan.

55. *Richmond on a new Ant-Thrush.*

[Description of a new Species of Ant-Thrush from Nicaragua. By Charles W. Richmond. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 625.]

Mr. Richmond separates from *Phlogopsis macleannani* of Panama and Veragua the Nicaraguan form, *P. saturata*, sp. nov., as "considerably brighter and richer in colour on the underparts, back, rump, and wings."

56. *Richmond on Birds from Alta Mira, Mexico.*

[Partial List of Birds collected at Alta Mira, Mexico, by Mr. Frank B. Armstrong. By Charles W. Richmond. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 627.]

This list contains the names of 60 species of birds of which specimens were obtained by Mr. Frank B. Armstrong at Alta Mira, near Tampico, on the west coast of Mexico, and sent to the U.S. National Museum for identification. They belong mostly to well-known species, but the list will be useful for the study of distribution. One adult male of *Geothlypis flavo-velatus*, Ridgw., was among them.

57. *Robinson on the Birds of Margarita Island.*

[An Annotated List of Birds observed on Margarita Island, and at Guanta and La Guayra, Venezuela. By Wirt Robinson. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 649.]

Acting on a hint given in this Journal (*Ibis*, 1895, p. 172), First-Lieutenant Wirt Robinson resolved to visit Margarita

Island in the summer of 1895, and arrived at the Venezuelan port of La Guayra by steamer from New York on June 20th, and, after a short delay there, at Porlamar, in Margarita, on June 30th. Margarita, only some 17 miles distant from the nearest point of the opposite mainland, is about 42 miles long and $20\frac{1}{2}$ miles across at its greatest breadth. It consists of two portions, united by a narrow isthmus. In the western part some almost barren peaks attain a height of 2300 feet. In the eastern portion the mountain rises to a central peak of 3240 feet in elevation, and, being constantly enveloped in clouds, gives birth to numerous streams, which irrigate the southern slopes of the island. On these quantities of fruit, sugar-cane, and corn are raised, while behind the cultivated lands are heavy forests.

Lieut. Robinson collected near Porlamar for eight days, and then moved to El Valle, in the cultivated district, where he spent a week, returning to Porlamar on July 15th, and leaving the island on the 20th. During his 16 days' collecting he obtained 200 birdskins, getting specimens of nearly every land-bird observed, except the two Vultures and the Caracara.

Of the 73 species included in Lieut. Robinson's list, 11 have been discriminated by Mr. Richmond as new. But they are all close allies of Venezuelan forms, and their claims to separation appear in most cases to be extremely slender. In fact, it is plain that the avifauna of Margarita has been wholly derived from Venezuela, and that no purely Antillean forms are found there.

Butorides robinsoni (sp. nov.) is "closely related" to *B. striata*; *Eupsychortyx pallidus* is so near to *E. sominii* as "not to require a separate description"! In the same sort of way *Leptoptila insularis* replaces *L. verreauxi*, and *Scardafella ridgwayi* *S. squamosa* of Venezuela. The remaining (so-called) new species are named *Speotyto brachyptera*, *Doleromyia pallida*, *Amazilia aliciae*, *Dendroplex longirostris*, *Quiscalus insularis*, *Cardinalis robinsoni*, and *Hylophilus griseipes*. The points of their distinctness appear in most cases to be hardly more decided.

Lasts of 18 species of birds observed at Guanta, in Venezuela, and of 35 identified at La Guayra, are added to the present paper. It is quite evident that Lieut. Robinson is a most enterprising and diligent collector and observer, but we are not quite satisfied as to the "new species."

58. *Salvadori on Birds from Deli, Sumatra.*

[Catalogo di una Collezione di Uccelli delle vicinanze di Deli in Sumatra. Per Tommaso Salvadori. Bull. Mus. Zool. Torino, xi. no. 250.]

The examination of a collection of birds from Deli, on the S.E. coast of Sumatra, has enabled Count Salvadori to add four new species to the avifauna of that island. The collection, which was sent for examination to Count Salvadori by Prof. Collett, of Christiania, contained altogether examples of 109 species.

59. *Seebohm's Eggs of British Birds.*

[Coloured Figures of the Eggs of British Birds, with Descriptive Notices. By Henry Seebohm. Edited (after the author's death) by R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D. &c. Sheffield: Pawson & Brailsford, 1896.]

A very short examination of Seebohm's figures of the eggs of British birds is sufficient to convince us that we have here to deal with a work of genuine merit, and that, as the editor says in his preface, it is not necessary to go to Germany for good chromolithography. The 59 coloured plates are beautifully printed on tinted backgrounds. The names of the birds are given in clear type under every figure, so that it is not necessary to refer to the text for their identification. The accompanying letterpress gives a concise account of the range, mode of occurrence in Great Britain, and breeding-habits of each species, prepared in our lamented friend's well-known style.

Dr. Sharpe contributes a memoir of the author, mainly written from personal reminiscences, besides a preface and the general supervision of the text, which he believes to be presented to the public nearly as the author "would have wished it to be issued." The result, in our opinion, forms an excellent memorial of the deceased: nothing more suitable

could have been devised for a man whose whole soul was in birds and eggs. The volume is creditable alike to the author, the editor, and the publishers, who have evidently spared neither trouble nor expense in its preparation.

60. Sharpe's 'Monograph of the Paradiseidæ.'

[Monograph of the *Paradiseidæ*, or Birds of Paradise, and *Ptilonorhynchidæ*, or Bower-Birds. By R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., F.L.S., &c. Part VI. Folio. London: H. Sotheran & Co., 1896.]

The sixth part of the Monograph of the Paradise-birds (dated 1896, but not delivered at the Zoological Society's Library until Jan. 1st, 1897) contains ten beautiful plates of the following species:—

<i>Craspedophora mantoui.</i>	<i>Diphyllodes seleucides.</i>
<i>Lamprothorax wilhelminæ.</i>	<i>Paradisea raggiana.</i>
<i>Epimachus ellioti.</i>	<i>Xanthomelus ardens.</i>
<i>Ianthothorax bensbachii.</i>	<i>Loria mariæ.</i>
<i>Diphyllodes magnifica.</i>	<i>Ptilonorhynchus violaceus.</i>

Of these, the newly-discovered forms *Lamprothorax* and *Ianthothorax* are, perhaps, the most noticeable. The latter has not been previously figured.

It is announced that, owing to the discovery, during the last two years, of several magnificent new species of Birds of Paradise, it has been found necessary to extend the present work to eight parts, instead of six, as originally intended.

61. Swann on British Birds.

[A Concise Handbook of British Birds. By H. Kirke Swann. 12mo. London, 1896.]

This compilation is wanting in system and plan—some rare species, e. g. *Saxicola stapazina* and *S. deserti*, being described in full, while on the same page *S. isabellina* is merely named, without a line to enable the novice to identify it. All the Corvidæ are described except the Nutcracker; the Short-toed and the Siberian Larks are merely named; while among the Sandpipers and the Ducks description

seems to be a matter of pure chance. As regards his geographical distribution, the author appears to have followed, as a rule, a tolerably safe pilot; but sometimes he ventures upon a little compression of his own and falls into error. For instance, he gives "Southern Europe" as the habitat of the Rock-Thrush, a bird which breeds on the Continent as far north as the latitude of London.

XXII.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters, addressed "to the Editors of 'The Ibis'":—

SIRS,—I have had a poor season for collecting this year, as business has occupied all my time, but I spent one interesting day in a salt-marsh. *Trupialis militaris* bred here this year in considerable numbers; the nests (similar to those of *T. defilippii*) were placed under tufts of high grass on high land, and well concealed. The eggs are three in number, large in size, and of a bluish white speckled with pale purple or reddish, and blotched or lined with dark purple or reddish. The Shoveler of this country (*Spatula platalea*) nests on high ground, but close to the water; the nest is well concealed among herbage, and composed of dry grass lined with down. The eggs are seven in number, elongated in shape, and of a creamy colour. *Elanus leucurus* was uncommon, but a few, probably birds of last year, remained here during October. *Gelochelidon anglica*, of which I sent home an adult specimen in September (see above, p. 169.—EDD.) I found breeding here this season. Its nest consists of a slight hollow in the ground, where it has trampled down the coarse grass. The eggs are three in number, large for the size of the bird, and of an olive, or grey, or yellow-brown colour, spotted and blotched with brown and light and dark grey.

In an extensive but shallow salt lake, dotted with numerous grassy islands and mudbanks, I and a friend spent an interesting afternoon. On the largest mudbank were many nests of the South-American Flamingo (*Phœni-*